

NH

October 23, 1953

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I return herewith the draft of the portion of your article for the [REDACTED] which you submitted with a request that I look it over for security.

Though some of the following comments do not relate to security in the strictest sense, I hope you will not mind my offering them in view of our general discussion when you were in Washington.

Page 1, next to last full sentence

I think that the phrase "It is said that" in front of your "Military men are prone to overestimate . . ." would make that sentence less offensive to the Pentagon intelligence officers.

Page 2, line 8

We would prefer some expression other than "to see some of the machinery" as that implies that you have been given access to operational elements which we never afford correspondents under any circumstances. Could you not say something like: "The writer has reviewed the process by which the facts of Soviet strength are determined."

Page 2, 5 lines from bottom

"Air Force A-2" should be changed to "Air Force Intelligence."

Page 2, 2 lines from bottom

Perhaps your statement "There is duplication, . . ." should be softened somewhat by the insertion of the parenthetical expression "(perhaps only prudent multiplication)."

Page 2, last line

I think this might be improved by changing it to read: ". . . on the part of many people, including those who have no military axes to grind."

Page 3, first full sentence

This description of CIA functions is erroneous and may be offensive to some of our sister intelligence services. We would prefer you to say something in the following vein: "Much of this mass of material is sifted, analyzed and coordinated by the Central Intelligence Agency, and their important conclusions are agreed to by the heads of all the intelligence agencies for incorporation in National Intelligence Estimates prepared under CIA direction for the National Security Council. Thus, throughout the Intelligence Community are gathered hundreds of anonymous men . . ."

Page 3, 7 lines from top

I think "Their" should be changed to "This Intelligence."

Page 3, 6 lines from bottom

The 2,000,000 figure is closer to covering all clerical work in the Soviet, not just those employed by the Central Statistical Administration or engaged in reporting to it.

Page 5, top line

It would be a little clearer if it read: "For saving a certain amount of an intermediate. . ."

Page 5, 4 lines from top

We would prefer not to point up our combing of "Russian technical journals." Could you substitute the word "material" in this sentence?

Page 5, line 10

I prefer not to have the "Director of Intelligence" referred to as such. There is no such position in our Agency although the title is used in some of the military services. Won't it be possible merely to combine that sentence with the following: "But suppose Stalin had deliberately lied?"

Page 6, line 1

Replace "the CIA" with the broader term "Intelligence."

Page 6, next to last full sentence

Figures given are a little too precise. We would prefer you to say, "So far hundreds of thousands of items have been ground through the Intelligence mill, and they are still going in at the rate of many thousands a month."

Page 7, first sentence

A more accurate picture from my point of view would be: "Soviet production exceeds \$100 billion a year, and the satellites increase this substantially." Figures on China production are very weak, and to the extent we are agreed on them we do not wish to disclose them.

Page 7, last paragraph, and top of Page 8

I would suggest the phrasing, "The following estimate of the armed strength of the Soviet Bloc: 8,700,000 men under arms; more than 120 surface ships and about 350 submarines; more than 20,000 first-line aircraft, with a similar number in reserve." It would be inaccurate to say that the Bloc has 20,000 modern jets.

Page 8, last paragraph

Seems to me this goes too far because, after all, using historic parallels and what we know about the character of the men presently in power, we can say more than "nothing" about probable intentions. Suggest combining the second and third sentences as follows: "As to what the Kremlin dictators intend to do, no one from the Director of CIA to the humblest citizen, can speak with assurance. Every effort is made to analyze indications of intended future actions, but in the last analysis the men in the Kremlin themselves probably do not know today what they are going to do next year or in the years to come."

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Enclosure

O/DD/I:RAJr.:jm

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